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COLES FAMILY.

(CONCLUDED)

"But the act thus adopted could not itself call a convention. It simply authorized the people of the State to vote on a proposition to hold such a convention to amend the Constitution, and to vote at a general election to be held on the first Monday of August, 1824. The supporters of the measure reckoned upon their large majority, but they reckoned without Edward Coles. They failed to take into account, also, the immense power of sentiment in such a contest. The little party led by Coles was thrice armed. It could point to the ordinance of 1787; it could quote Mr. Jefferson on the evils of slavery as injurious to whites as well as blacks, and it could point to the unseating of Hansen as a deliberate outrage of the first rank. As a leader, Governor Coles rose to the occasion. He had been reared in a political school where it was still believed that a sound public opinion might be cultivated by intelligent discussion. He called a meeting of the members of the Legislature who were opposed to a convention, and a strong address, probably written by himself, and in a style worthy of Madison, was prepared, printed and circulated. The campaign of education went on in the press with a multitude of pamphlets, as well as by oral debate. The advocates of free soil in the East were appealed to, chiefly in Philadelphia, and gave their assistance to the literary bureau. Among them, Robert Vaux, a prominent Quaker, caused three tracts to be prepared, treating respectively of the unprofitableness of slave labor, the abuses of the slave trade, and the general injustice of the system. Morris Birbeck, an Englishman of education, who had established a colony in Edwards county, Ill., published a series of letters signed by 'Jonathan Freeman,' which were widely read. Governor Coles himself spent all his salary and much of his private fortune in the campaign. At last, after nearly two years of bitter contest and excited debate, the day of election arrived. The question nominally was, Should a convention be called? but in reality it was, Should Illinois be a slave State or a free State?

"The proposition for a convention was defeated by a majority of 1,872 out of a vote of 11,772, and Illinois remained a free State.

"In 1826 Governor Coles delivered his valedictory message. In 1833 he removed to Philadelphia, where he was married to a daughter of Hugh Roberts, a descendant of the Hugh Roberts who came to America with William Penn. It may be interesting to note that, though he was a true philanthropist, who was willing to make any sacrifice of money or time to accomplish what he thought to be for the highest good of his fellow-men, he was in no way a sentimentalist or a crank. He was essentially a man of affairs, keen, careful, orderly, successful. While he seemed to be wasting his patrimony by the emancipation of his slaves

and in the expenses of the great battle which he led and won in Illinois, he yet had the good sense to appreciate the future of the West, and to make some investments in Chicago and St. Louis, which brought him an ample fortune. He died in Philadelphia in 1868 at the age of eighty-two years.

"In the beautiful hall of 'Estoutville,' in Albemarle county, Va., there hangs an oil portrait of Edward Coles, painted when he was still in the full vigor of middle life. It is a good picture as a work of art, and is said to be a good likeness. It represents a Virginian of the best type. A relative of 'Dolly Madison,' a pupil of her distinguished husband, a friend of Jefferson and Monroe, his fine, well-bred face attracts at once the attention of every visitor who enjoys the hospitality of that beautiful home. Looking at his benign features, one is reminded again of how much our country owes to the great men of the Old Dominion, of whom Edward Coles was not the least in intelligence, courage and purity; and whatever we may think of the questions of public policy involved in the great contest of his life, we may pay our tribute of respect to these essentials of a statesman."

[We shall be glad to have for publication an account of the other branches of the Coles family.]

BOOKER FAMILY.

(CONTINUED)

Captain Richard¹ Booker, of Gloucester (see page 96) by his second marriage, with Hannah Hand, had, as far known, two children: Mrs. Frances Stokes and George² Booker, of Gloucester county. The latter was living in that county in 1751, when his sister, Mrs. Stokes, bequeathed property to him, and then had issue: 71. Richard³; 72. George;⁴ 73. *Edward*⁵; 74. Sarah,⁶ married ——— Munford. Of Richard,³ and George,⁴ there is at present no certain information, except that in 1761, Edward⁵ Booker makes bequests to their children. It may be that George⁶ Booker was the person of the name whose will was dated October 13, and proved December 22, 1791, in Amelia. He bequeaths to his son George (if said George returns to the State), the land he lived on; bequests to sons Richardson and Efford Booker, granddaughter Sally Marshall Booker, grandson George Booker, daughters Edith, Sarah, Grace, and Judith; and granddaughter Sally Richeson Hudson.

73. EDWARD⁵ BOOKER, died in 1761. His will, dated November 10, 1760, and proved in Amelia, June 25, 1761, contains bequests to his children George and Lucy Booker, the children of his brothers George and Richard Booker, and his sister Sarah Munford; and his brother-in-law, James Clarke. We have no further information in regard to this branch of the family. It may be that George Booker, the son named in the will, was the one who removed to Elizabeth City county.